

IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims, including any amendments made by this paper, follows below:

1. (Currently Amended) A shoe rack comprising:
 - at least one frame structure;
 - a hanger coupled to said frame structure, said hanger being shaped to couple said shoe rack to a generally vertically-oriented support surface such that said frame structure is located generally adjacent to said support surface;
 - wherein the frame structure includes a plurality of support arms shaped to extend generally away from said support surface when said frame structure is located generally adjacent to said support surface;
 - a plurality of generally horizontally-oriented, vertically spaced inner rungs coupled to said frame structure;
 - a plurality of generally horizontally-oriented, vertically spaced outer rungs coupled to said frame structure; and
 - a plurality of generally vertically-oriented struts, each strut extending between adjacent ones of said outer rungs or adjacent ones of said support arms to provide vertical support to said outer rungs and said support arms, wherein at least one of said inner rungs, or at least one of said outer rungs or at least one of said struts is removably coupled to the associated component.
2. (Previously Presented) The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein each inner rung extends between adjacent ones of said support arms and each outer rung extends between adjacent ones of said support arms.
3. (Previously Presented) The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein the inner rungs, outer rungs, struts, support arms, and at least part of said frame structure form a plurality of generally closed, vertically stacked box-like structures.

4. (Previously Presented) The shoe rack of claim 3 wherein each box-like structure includes inner rungs, outer rungs, struts, support arms, and at least part of said frame structure forming front, rear, left and right sides, each of said sides being generally planar and generally perpendicular to each other.

5. (Previously Presented) The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein the frame structure includes a pair of frames, said frames being generally parallel and spaced apart from each other, each frame including a generally longitudinally-extending base portion and at least two spaced support arms extending generally perpendicular to and generally away from the associated base portion.

6. (Previously Presented) The shoe rack of claim 5 wherein each inner and outer rung extends generally perpendicular to the base portion and to the support arms of both frames, and wherein each strut extends generally parallel to the base and generally perpendicular to the support arms of both frames.

7. (Previously Presented) The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein each strut is integrally formed with an associated support arm.

8. (Currently Amended) The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein each strut is removably coupled to ~~said~~ the associated adjacent ones of said outer rungs or adjacent ones of said support arms.

9. (Previously Presented) The shoe rack of claim 8 wherein said frame structure further includes a plurality of strut receptacles which receive said struts therein in an interference fit.

10. (Previously Presented) The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein each outer rung is removably coupled to said frame structure.

11. (Previously Presented) The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein said frame structure includes a plurality of outer rung receptacles which receive said outer rungs therein in an interference fit.

12. (Previously Presented) The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein each inner rung is removably coupled to said frame structure.

13. (Previously Presented) The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein said frame structure further includes a plurality of inner rung receptacles which receive said inner rungs therein in an interference fit.

14. (Previously Presented) The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein each support arm is integral with said frame structure.

15. (Previously Presented) The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein said frame structure further includes an upper connector portion and a lower connector portion such that at least one additional frame structure can be coupled to said frame structure via said upper and lower connector portions in a modular manner.

16. (Previously Presented) The shoe rack of claim 15 wherein said upper connector portion and said lower connector portion further includes a plurality of teeth.

17. (Previously Presented) The shoe rack of claim 16 further comprising a cover adapted to couple to said lower connector portion and provide a smooth outer appearance to said lower connector portion.

18. (Previously Presented) The shoe rack of claim 15 further including a brace which can be coupled to said frame structure and to said additional frame structure to couple said frame structures together.

19. (Previously Presented) The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein said hanger is removably coupled to said frame structure.

20. (Previously Presented) The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein said hanger further includes a generally inverted "U" shaped receiving portion adapted to fit over an upper edge of said support surface.

21. (Previously Presented) The shoe rack of claim 20 wherein said hanger includes a plurality of perforations to facilitate removal of said receiving portion and a plurality of openings to receive fasteners therethrough to couple said hanger to said support surface.

22. (Previously Presented) The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein each outer rung is generally horizontally aligned with an associated inner rung.

23. (Currently Amended) A shoe rack comprising:

- at least one frame structure including a base portion and a plurality of supports extending generally away from said base portion, said frame structure including a plurality of inner rung coupling portions and a plurality of outer rung coupling portions;
- a hanger coupled or adapted to be coupled to said frame structure, said hanger being shaped to couple said shoe rack to a generally vertically-oriented support surface;
- a plurality of inner rungs adapted to couple to said inner rung coupling portions of said frame structure such that the inner rungs extend generally perpendicular to said frame structure, said inner rungs being adapted to couple to said inner rung coupling portions such that said inner rungs are generally aligned in a first plane;
- a plurality of outer rungs adapted to couple to said outer rung coupling portions of said frame structure such that the outer rungs extend generally perpendicular to said frame structure and generally parallel to said plurality of inner rungs, said outer rungs being adapted to couple to said outer rung coupling portions such that said outer rungs are generally aligned in a second plane that is generally parallel to and spaced apart from said first plane; and

a plurality of rigid struts adapted to extend between adjacent ones of said support arms or said outer rungs to provide support to said outer rungs and said support arms.

24. (Previously Presented) The shoe rack of claim 23 wherein each inner rung is adapted to extend between adjacent ones of said support arms and each outer rung is adapted to extend between adjacent ones of said support arms.

25. (Currently Amended) The shoe rack of claim 23 wherein the inner rungs, outer rungs, struts, support arms, and at least part of said frame structure are adapted to form a plurality of generally closed, rigid vertically stacked box-like structures when assembled.

26. (Previously Presented) The shoe rack of claim 23 wherein the frame structure includes a pair of frames, said frames being adapted to be generally parallel and spaced apart from each other.

27. (Previously Presented) The shoe rack of claim 23 wherein said hanger includes a generally inverted "U" shaped receiving portion adapted to fit over an upper edge of said support surface.

28. (Previously Presented) The shoe rack of claim 23 wherein each outer rung is adapted to be generally aligned with an associated inner rung.

29. (Currently Amended) A method for assembling a shoe rack, comprising the steps of:
obtaining at least one frame structure having a hanger coupled thereto, said hanger being shaped to couple said shoe rack to a generally vertically-oriented support surface such that said frame structure is located generally adjacent to said support surface, and wherein the frame structure includes a plurality of support arms extending generally away from said support surface when said frame structure is located generally adjacent to said support surface, and wherein the support arms include a plurality of struts extending generally perpendicularly

between adjacent ones of said support arms to provide vertical support to said outer rungs and said support arms;

releasably coupling a plurality of generally horizontally-oriented, vertically spaced inner rungs to said frame structure; and

releasably coupling a plurality of generally horizontally-oriented, vertically spaced outer rungs to said frame structure.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29 further comprising the step of coupling said shoe rack to said vertical support surface.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 further comprising the step of locating shoes on said shoe rack such that said shoes rest on and are supported by selected ones of said inner and outer rungs.

32. (Currently Amended) A method for storing shoes, comprising the steps of:
providing a shoe rack, wherein the shoe rack includes

at least one frame structure,

a hanger coupled to said frame structure, said hanger being shaped to couple said shoe rack to a generally vertically-oriented support surface such that said frame structure is located generally adjacent to said support surface,

wherein the frame structure includes a plurality of support arms shaped to extend generally away from said support surface when said frame structure is located generally adjacent to said support surface,

a plurality of generally horizontally-oriented, vertically spaced inner rungs coupled to said frame structure,

a plurality of generally horizontally-oriented, vertically spaced outer rungs coupled to said frame structure, and

a plurality of generally vertically-oriented struts, each strut extending between adjacent ones of said outer rungs or adjacent ones of said support arms to provide vertical support to said outer rungs and said support arms, wherein at least one of

said inner rungs, or at least one of said outer rungs or at least one of said struts is removably coupled to the associated component;

coupling the shoe rack ~~over~~ to a generally vertically-oriented support surface; and
placing a pair of shoes onto the inner and outer rungs such that the shoes rest on the inner and outer rungs.

33. (Currently Amended) A shoe rack comprising:

a frame structure;

a hanger coupled to said frame structure, said hanger being shaped to couple said shoe rack to a generally vertically-oriented support surface such that said frame structure is located generally adjacent to said support surface;

wherein the frame structure includes a plurality of support arms extending generally away from said support surface;

a plurality of generally horizontally-oriented, vertically spaced inner rungs coupled to said frame structure; ~~and~~

a plurality of generally horizontally-oriented, vertically spaced outer rungs extending between adjacent ones of said support arms, wherein each outer rung is generally horizontally aligned with an ~~associate~~ associated inner rung; ~~and~~

a plurality of generally vertically-extending rigid connectors, each connector extending between adjacent ones of said outer rungs, adjacent ones of said inner rungs, or adjacent ones of said support arms to provide vertical support to said inner rungs, outer rungs, or support arms.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) A shoe rack comprising:

a pair of frames, said frames being generally parallel and spaced apart from each other, each frame including a generally longitudinally-extending base and at least two spaced support arms extending generally perpendicular to and generally away from said base;

a pair of spaced, generally parallel inner rungs extending generally perpendicular to and between said frames;

a pair of spaced, generally parallel outer rungs extending generally perpendicular to and between said frames;

a pair of spaced, generally parallel struts, each strut extending generally parallel to and between portions of an associated frame;

wherein said frames, inner rungs, outer rungs and struts form a generally closed box-like shape and wherein at least one of said inner rungs, or at least one of said outer rungs or at least one of said struts is removably coupled to the associated component; and

a hanger coupled to at least one of said frames, said hanger being shaped to couple said shoe rack to a generally vertically-oriented support surface.

36. (New) The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein said at least one of said inner rungs, said at least one of said outer rungs or said at least one of said struts that is removably coupled is removably coupled by an interference fit.

37. (New) The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein at least one of said inner rungs, and at least one of said outer rungs, and at least one of said struts is removably coupled to the associated component.

38. (New) The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein each strut is rigid.

39. (New) The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein said frame structure is rigid.

40. (New) The shoe rack of claim 23 wherein at least one of said inner rungs, or at least one of said outer rungs or at least one of said struts is adapted to be removably coupled to the associated component.

41. (New) The shoe rack of claim 23 wherein said frame structure is rigid.

42. (New) The method of claim 29 wherein each strut is rigid.

43. (New) The method of claim 29 wherein each strut is positioned such that each strut is positioned between adjacent ones of said support arms before either of said coupling steps.

44. (New) The method of claim 29 wherein each strut is positioned such that each strut is positioned between adjacent ones of said support arms after either of said coupling steps.

45. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein said at least one of said inner rungs, said at least one of said outer rungs or said at least one of said struts that is removably coupled is removably coupled by an interference fit.

46. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein each strut is rigid.

47. (New) The shoe rack of claim 33 wherein at least one of said inner rungs, or at least one of said outer rungs or at least one of said connectors is removably coupled to the associated component.

48. (New) The shoe rack of claim 35 wherein said at least one of said inner rungs, said at least one of said outer rungs or said at least one of said struts that is removably coupled is removably coupled by an interference fit.

49. (New) The shoe rack of claim 35 wherein each strut is rigid.

50. (New) The shoe rack of claim 35 wherein said generally closed box-like shape is generally rigid in all directions thereof.

51. (New) A shoe rack comprising:
at least one frame structure;

a hanger coupled to said frame structure, said hanger being shaped to couple said shoe rack to a generally vertically-oriented support surface such that said frame structure is located generally adjacent to said support surface;

wherein the frame structure includes a plurality of support arms shaped to extend generally away from said support surface when said frame structure is located generally adjacent to said support surface;

a plurality of generally horizontally-oriented, vertically spaced inner rungs coupled to said frame structure;

a plurality of generally horizontally-oriented, vertically spaced outer rungs coupled to said frame structure; and

a plurality of generally vertically-oriented struts, each strut extending between adjacent ones of said outer rungs or adjacent ones of said support arms to provide vertical support to said outer rungs and said support arms, wherein said frame structure further includes an upper connector portion and a lower connector portion such that at least one additional frame structure can be coupled to said frame structure via said upper and lower connector portions in a modular manner.